

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

APPLICANT: Helmut L. Kayan EXAMINER: Michelle Lopez  
APPLICATION NO: 10/697,523 GROUP: ART UNIT 3721  
FILED: October 30, 2003 DATE: December 2, 2008

TITLE: **APPARATUS AND METHOD FOR SURGICAL FASTENING**

Mail Stop Amendment  
Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-4150

**AMENDMENT "A"**

Sir:

In response to the Office Action that was mailed on September 12, 2008, please amend the above-identified application as follows:

**Amendments to the Claims** are reflected in the Listing of Claims which begins on page 2 of this paper.

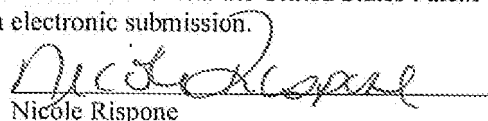
**Remarks** begin on page 9 of this paper.

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**CERTIFICATE OF TRANSMISSION UNDER 37 C.F.R. §1.8(a)**

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being transmitted on the date below with the United States Patent and Trademark Office, PO Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, via electronic submission.

Dated: December 2, 2008

  
Nicole Rispono